

The Courier

BALLARAT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1981

Begonia rally attracts record entry

A record 65 cars will start in the 28th Begonia Rally from Armstrong street next Saturday.

Last year's winner, Hugh Bell, with navigator Steve Ellis in a new Datsun 1600 will be first away at 10.45 am.

An ex-Ford works team Escort will be driven by Ian Hill of NSW with Ann Heagney.

The third car away is the highly-fancied Geoff Portman-Phil Rainer Datsun 200B.

Reigning Victorian rally champions, Chris and Simon Brown have yet another Datsun, this time a 180B.

Other cars in the two-day, daylight rally around the Ballarat district include a turbo-charged Porsche Coupe, an ex-Ford round Australia trialist, a Cortina and several two-litre Lancers.

The first stage of the rally on Saturday will be in Victoria Park. About 3000 people crammed the park to see last year's stage here and organisers are expecting an even bigger crowd this year.

Special spectator kits will be available at a rally car display at the Wendouree Village Mall and at the Begonia Festival caravan outside the Town Hall, 3BA, Eclipse Motors and Gardon Motors.

A guide to spectator areas, a preview, area map and full entry list will be in next Friday's Courier.



Favorite for the 1981 Begonia Rally to be run next weekend is top Victorian driver, Geoff Portman. He is seen charging through the forest last year in a Datsun 1600. This year he will run a Datsun 200B.